

# National Women's History Month events among 16 special programs at the museums of the State of Delaware during March 2018

(DOVER, Del.—Feb. 22, 2018)—The Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs will be hosting 16 special events during the month of March 2018 at the museums of the State of Delaware. Twelve of these programs will be presented in celebration of National Women's History Month. A full schedule is included below. All programs are free and open to the public.



Jean Norvell will share her childhood experiences growing up during Britain's "darkest hour" in the program, "London in Wartime: Ration Books, Bomb Shelters and the Blitz," that will take place at

the New Castle Court  
House Museum on  
March 14, 2018.

Designated by joint resolutions of the United States House of Representatives and Senate and proclaimed by the American president, [National Women's History Month](#) is an opportunity to honor and celebrate women's lives and historic achievements. Each year National Women's History Month employs a unifying theme and recognizes national honorees whose work and lives testify to that theme. For 2018, the theme is "Nevertheless, She Persisted: Honoring Women Who Fight All Forms of Discrimination Against Women."

**Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs special programs, March 2018**

**Saturday, March 3, 2018**

**"The Road to the Vote."** Guided tours highlight the women's suffrage movement in Delaware, the 19th Amendment and the discussions held in Delaware's historic capitol regarding its passage. [First Saturday in the First State](#) program. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5054.

**Saturday March 3, 2018**

**"The Women of Victor."** Guided tours focusing on the talented female vocalists of the Victor Talking Machine Company and how they paved the way for the divas of today, accompanied by early recordings of those artists played on authentic Victor Talking Machines. [First Saturday in the First State](#) program. [Johnson Victrola Museum](#), 375 S. New St., Dover. 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3262.



Operatic soprano Rosa Ponselle will be one of the artists featured in the “Women of Victor” program at the Johnson Victrola Museum on March 3, 2018.

### **Saturday, March 3, 2018**

**“A Woman’s World: Quill Pen Writing.”** Women on the plantation communicated their thoughts and ideas through letters and journals. Drop-in to try your hand at quill pen writing and learn penmanship techniques of the 18th century. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Program 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

### **Monday–Saturday, March 5–10, 2018**

**“Stories of Courage and Freedom.”** Part of the “Find Your Freedom” series held in celebration of National Harriet Tubman Day. Program will feature stories of bravery, courage and freedom, and visitors can obtain The Old State House Network to Freedom [cancellation stamp](#). [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. Mon.–Sat., 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5054.



Celebrate March  
10, National  
Harriet Tubman  
Day, with  
programs at The  
Old State House  
and John  
Dickinson  
Plantation.

**Friday, March 9, 2018**

**Concert by Single Origin.** Singer/songwriter duo. Presented in partnership with the [Delaware Friends of Folk](#) and the [First State Heritage Park](#). [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. 7:30 p.m. 302-744-5054.

**Saturday, March 10, 2018**

**"Stories of Slavery and Freedom."** In celebration of National Harriet Tubman Day, special history-based tours explore the lives of free and enslaved African-American women. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

**Saturday, March 10, 2018**

**Demonstrations by the Thistledown Fiber Arts Guild.** Program explores spinning, weaving, knitting and other fabric arts. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover.

Program 1–3 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

**Wednesday, March 14, 2018**

**“London in Wartime: Ration Books, Bomb Shelters and the Blitz.”** Presentation features personal memories of World War II by New Castle resident [Jean Norvell](#) who grew up in war-torn London, remembering air raids, bombing and air-raid shelters. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle. 7 p.m. 302-323-4453.

**Saturday, March 17, 2018**

**“A Woman’s World: Journal Making.”** Women have been integral in documenting the history of the plantation through letters and journals. Drop-in for this activity and create your own handmade journal. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Program 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Museum open 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.



Historic-site interpreters Vertie Lee (left) and Barbara Carrow portray two of the women who lived and worked at the John Dickinson Plantation.

### **Saturday, March 17, 2018**

**"The Minstrel Boy: The Life of John McCormack."** In celebration of Irish Heritage Month, this program by museum interpreter Gavin Malone explores the life of the noted Irish tenor John McCormack, accompanied by 78-rpm recordings played on authentic Victor Talking Machines. [Johnson Victrola Museum](#), 375 S. New St., Dover. Program at 1 p.m. in the museum's 2nd floor gallery (entry via staircase; no elevator). Museum open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Free admission but, due to space restrictions, reservations are required by calling 302-739-3262.

### **Saturday, March 24, 2018**

**"A Dead Whale or a Stove Boat, Parts Two and Three."** Lecture by historic-site interpreter Andrew Lyter on the glory days of the American whaling industry (1783–1861) followed by its decline and death (1861–1927). Final segment of "[Global to Local: International Events and the First State](#)," a five-part series exploring how world events impacted Delaware's history. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. Program at 2 p.m. on the museum's 2nd floor (entry via staircase; no elevator). Museum open 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Free admission but, due to space restrictions, reservations for the lecture are required by calling 302-645-1148 no later than March 23, 2018. Program incorporates material originally scheduled to be presented on Dec. 9, 2017.

### **Friday, March 30, 2018**

**Good Friday.** All museums of the State of Delaware will be open: The [Johnson Victrola Museum](#) and [The Old State House](#), open 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; the [John Dickinson Plantation](#), [New Castle Court House Museum](#) and the [Zwaanendael Museum](#), open 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5054.

### **Exhibits and displays, March 2018**

In addition to special programming, the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs is sponsoring the following exhibits and displays. Admission is free and open to the public:

### **Ongoing**

**[“Discovering Delaware’s Maritime Past.”](#)** Display explores the DeBraak, a shipwrecked 18th-century British warship, including a photo of the hull recovery, reproductions of items aboard ship and a model of the vessel. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. Nov. 1–March 31: Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. April 1–Oct. 31: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. 302-645-1148.

### **Ongoing**

**[“Drawing America to Victory: The Persuasive Power of the Arts in World War I.”](#)** Online exhibit revolves around 27 World War I posters from the collections of the State of Delaware.

### **Ongoing**

**[“Five Stories.”](#)** Display explores the varied lives of people who lived on the plantation including Dickinson family members, tenant farmers, tradesmen, free blacks, indentured servants and enslaved individuals. [John Dickinson Plantation Welcome Center](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Oct. 1–March 31: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. April 1–Sept. 30: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

### **Ongoing**

**[“Letters From a Farmer in Pennsylvania.”](#)** Online exhibit explores the life of Founding Father John Dickinson on the 250th anniversary of the publication of his essays that described Colonial American grievances with the British government.

### **Ongoing**

**[“New Castle: Three Forts, One Community.”](#)** Exhibit examines the 17th-century struggle for control of New Castle by the Dutch, Swedes and English, and the strongholds that they built to maintain their power. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle. Tue.–Sat., 10

a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-323-4453.

### Ongoing

[“The Old State House: A True Restoration 1976-2016.”](#) Display explores preservation work that has been conducted since Delaware’s first state capitol building was restored to its original appearance in 1976. From the collections of the State of Delaware. [The Old State House](#), 25 The Green, Dover. Mon.–Sat., 9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. 302-744-5054.

### Ongoing

[“Rose Color to Gold to Glowing Red: Orville and Ethel Peets in Paris 1913-1914.”](#) Exhibit featuring paintings and painting materials used by the noted Delaware artists Orville Houghton Peets and Ethel Canby Peets. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. Nov. 1–March 31: Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. April 1–Oct. 31: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. 302-645-1148.



Portrait of Ethel Canby Peets by Orville Peets on display at the Zwaanendael Museum.

### Ongoing



**[Sculpture by Charles Parks](#)**. Display of works by the noted Wilmington artist featuring historical and political figures including a Minute Man, and presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford and George W. Bush. [New Castle Court House Museum](#), 211 Delaware St., New Castle. Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sun., 1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. 302-323-4453.

### **Ongoing**

**[“A Seaborne Citizenry: The DeBraak and Its Atlantic World.”](#)** Exhibit utilizes artifacts recovered from His Majesty’s Sloop of War DeBraak, a British warship that sank off the Delaware coast on May 25, 1798, to tell the story of the vessel, its crew and the historical context within which it operated in the Atlantic World of the late 18th century. [Zwaanendael Museum](#), 102 Kings Highway, Lewes. Nov. 1–March 31: Wed.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. April 1–Oct. 31: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. 302-645-1148.

### **Ongoing**

**[“Simple Machines.”](#)** Exhibit demonstrating the six “simple machines”—incline ramp, screw, wedge, pulley, lever and wheel—that constitute the elementary building blocks of which many more-complicated machines are composed. [John Dickinson Plantation](#), 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover. Oct. 1–March 31: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m. April 1–Sept. 30: Tue.–Sat., 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.; Sun., 1:30–4:30 p.m. 302-739-3277.

Administered by the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs, the five museums of the State of Delaware—the John Dickinson Plantation, the Johnson Victrola Museum, the New Castle Court House Museum, The Old State House and the Zwaanendael Museum—tell the story of the First State’s contributions to the history and culture of the United States. Through tours, exhibits, school programs and hands-on activities, the museums shine a spotlight on Delaware’s unique history and the diverse people who came to live there. The museums are accredited by the [American Alliance of Museums](#).

The New Castle Court House Museum and the John Dickinson Plantation are partner sites of the [First State National Historical Park](#). The Old State House is located on the Dover Green, another partner site of the park.

Go to the following for a [comprehensive, long-term calendar of division-sponsored events](#).



**-End-**

**Contact:**

Jim Yurasek

Delaware Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

Phone: 302-739-7787

E-mail: [Jim.Yurasek@delaware.gov](mailto:Jim.Yurasek@delaware.gov)

Web: <http://history.delaware.gov>